

PATENTS

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

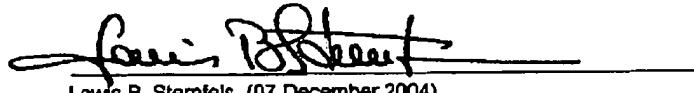
In re Application of:)
DAVID SOUMEKH)
Serial No. 10/099,925) Group Art No. 1761
Filed: 15 March 2002)
For: MICRO-POROUS ENCLOSURE FOR DELIVERING)
AND STIRRING INFUSIBLE AND WATER-SOLUBLE)
POTABLE MATTER INTO A LIQUID) Examiner: Robert A. Madsen

VERSION **WITH** MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN CLAIMS

(Per Response to Office Action dated 07 September 2004)

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What is Claimed is:

1 1. (Once Amended) A sealed device for supplying the essences of infusible
2 and water-soluble potable matter into a liquid comprising [an] a unitary, self-supporting
3 generally stiff enclosure having openings which comprise micro-pores that form a
4 screen in which the micro-pores are smaller than the nominal size of the matter when
5 the matter comprises infusible matter, and thus are sized and have densities per unit
6 area substantially to eliminate the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, thus, to
7 encourage respective conveyance of the essences into the liquid.

1 2. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which said enclosure
2 comprises a tri-laminated material including a construction formed from layers of a
3 polymer material sandwiched about an aluminum layer.

1 3. (Cancelled) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the openings
2 comprise micro-pores that form a screen in which the micro-pores are smaller than the
3 nominal size of the matter when the matter comprises infusible matter.

1 4. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure
2 comprises a woven membrane.

1 5. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 4 in which said woven
2 membrane comprises food-grade monofilament polymer.

1 6. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 5 in which said
2 monofilament polymer comprises a polypropylene netting or gauze alternating with a
3 stabilized yarn.

1 7. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure
2 comprises a tri-laminated material including a construction formed from layers of a
3 polymer material sandwiched about an aluminum layer.

1 8. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure
2 is embodied as a tube.

1 9. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 8 in which said tube is
2 formed from a sheet of material lap-sealed upon itself.

1 10. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 8 in which said tube is
2 formed from a sheet of material fin-sealed upon itself.

1 11. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 3 in which said enclosure
2 is formed from an expandible container.

1 12. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 11 in which said container
2 has a pleated configuration to permit its expansion as the contained matter expands
3 upon contact with the liquid without causing a squeezing pressure upon the matter.

1 13. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which said enclosure
2 has sufficient rigidity which provides a adequate structural integrity to permits its

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3 employment as a stirring rod for permitting the essence of the matter contained in the
4 enclosure to be conveyed into the liquid.

1 14. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the matter
2 contained in the enclosure is in crystalline, powder and granular form, and in
3 combinations thereof.

1 15. (Original) A sealed device according to claim 14 in which the matter
2 comprises a pre-measured medication in dry form which is dissolvable in a ready-to-
3 use form.

1 16. (Withdrawn) A method for supplying the essences of infusible and
2 water-soluble potable matter into a liquid comprising the steps of providing openings
3 in an enclosure which are sized and have densities per unit area to substantially
4 eliminate the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, therefore, to encourage
5 respective infusion and dissolution of the essences into the liquid.

1 17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 16 further comprising the step
2 of forming the openings as micro-pores to form a screen that are smaller than the
3 nominal size of the matter when the matter comprises infusible matter.

1 18. (Once Amended) A sealed device for supplying the essences of infusible
2 and water-soluble matter into a liquid comprising [an] a unitary, self-supporting
3 generally stiff enclosure having openings which comprise micro-pores that form a
4 screen in which the micro-pores are smaller than the nominal size of the matter when
5 the matter comprises infusible matter, and thus are sized and have densities per unit

6 area substantially to eliminate the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, thus, to
7 encourage respective conveyance of the essences into the liquid

1 19. (Withdrawn) A method for supplying the essences of infusible and
2 water-soluble matter into a liquid comprising the steps of providing openings in an
3 enclosure which are sized and have densities per unit area to substantially eliminate
4 the effect of surface tension of the liquid and, therefore, to encourage respective
5 infusion and dissolution of the essences into the liquid.

1 20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14 further comprising the step
2 of forming the openings as micro-pores to form a screen that are smaller than the
3 nominal size of the matter when the matter comprises infusible matter.

1 21. (New) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the infusible matter
2 comprises tea.

1 22. (New) A sealed device according to claim 1 in which the potable matter
2 comprises matter in crystalline, powder or granule form.

1 23. (New) A sealed device according to claim 22 in which the potable matter
2 comprises sugar and/or instant coffee.

1 24. (New) A sealed device according to claim 22 in which the potable matter
2 comprises medications.

1 25. (New) A sealed device according to claim 18 in which the infusible matter
2 comprises tea.

1 26. (New) A sealed device according to claim 18 in which the potable matter
2 comprises matter in crystalline, powder or granule form.

1 27. (New) A sealed device according to claim 26 in which the potable matter
2 comprises sugar and/or instant coffee.

1 28. (New) A sealed device according to claim 26 in which the potable matter
2 comprises medications.